

Spring 2002



Iowa Department  
of Public Safety

## Iowa Hits 81% Seat Belt Use



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Governor Thomas J. Vilsack holds a special award presented by the National Safety Council marking Iowa's 81 percent seat belt use rate. Pictured are Lt. Paul Fredenburg, Davenport PD; Col. Robert Garrison, Iowa State Patrol; Patrolman David Ness, Des Moines PD; Sheriff Chuck Eddy, Buena Vista County SO; Governor Vilsack, Lisa Lutz, Iowa Department of Public Health, Lu Simpson, Occupant Protection Coordinator, GTSB, Romell Cooks, Administrator, NHTSA Region VII, Chuck Hurley, National Safety Council.

Iowa has achieved a seat belt use rate of 81 percent in a survey taken in Autumn, 2001. Chuck Hurley, National Safety Council, presented an award to Governor Thomas J. Vilsack and the people of Iowa. Governor Vilsack acknowledged the dedication of law enforcement in reaching the 81 percent level.

Governor Vilsack said one of his sons had twice been saved from serious injury or death because he wore a seat belt.

Hurley reminded Iowa that the final 19 percent is the most difficult and we still had 8 states with higher seat belt use led by California with 91 percent.

### sTep Waves 2002

July 2-8

August 26 - September 2

November 25 - December 1

Iowa seat belt use	81%
Goal by 2002	85%
Midwest ranking (Michigan is #1)	# 2
U.S. Ranking	# 9

## Calendar

### June 9-11:

Lifesavers,  
Orlando, Fla.

### June 25:

Clarion Conference  
Center, Coralville

### June 26:

University Park  
Holiday Inn,  
West Des Moines  
Legislative Acts of  
Interest to Law  
Enforcement

### June 19-20:

Safe Mobility  
Decisions for Older  
Drivers, Holiday  
Inn, University  
Park, West Des  
Moines.

### July 2-8:

sTEP Enforce-  
ment Week

### Aug 26 - Sept 2:

sTEP Enforce-  
ment Week

### August

## Kevin Techau is New Commissioner



DPS Commissioner  
Kevin W. Techau

Governor Thomas J. Vilsack recently named Kevin W. Techau to head the Iowa Department of Public Safety. As DPS Commissioner, he also becomes the Governor's Representative for Highway Safety.

Commissioner Techau served as Director of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals since February 1999. Before that, he was an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Federal Defender Office in Des Moines between 1996 and 1999.

He is a graduate of Marion High School, the University of Iowa, College of Business and the University of Iowa, College of Law. Commissioner Techau served seven years in the United States Air Force. He returned to Iowa in 1992 to accept a position with the Grefe & Sidney law firm in Des Moines where he was employed from 1992-1996. He is a lieutenant in the Iowa Air National Guard.

Commissioner Techau and his wife, Stephanie, reside in Des Moines with their son Maxson.

## Habla Español?

A translation for avoiding the 11 most common mistakes in child restraint use is now available in Spanish on the GTSB website.

Carson Whitlow, GTSB, said the material is available in English. He welcomes other translations, as well.  
[www.state.ia.us/government/dps/gtsb/](http://www.state.ia.us/government/dps/gtsb/)

## CrossRoads

**Thomas J. Vilsack**, Governor  
**Kevin Techau**, Commissioner,  
Iowa Department of Public Safety  
**J. Michael Laski**, Director,  
Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau  
**Mark J. Campbell**, Editor  
*With assistance from Sandy Bennett,  
Ihla Hochstetler, Lu Simpson, Bob  
Thompson, Denny Becker & Shelley  
DeForest.*

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We welcome article submissions and  
ideas pertaining to traffic safety.

Visit our website at:  
[www.state.ia.us/government/dps/gtsb/](http://www.state.ia.us/government/dps/gtsb/)

## Corridor Project Planning Underway



City, county and state officers are shown at a planning meeting for the Avenue

of the Saints Project. Meetings were held in Waverly and Mount Pleasant in late April. They selected May 23rd as the enforcement date.

Other projects either planned or under consideration include Interstate 29, U.S. Highways 71, 20, 30, 61, 151 and 61. The enforcement date for the Interstates 35 and 80 project is August 29.

## Shreve is Liaison for NHTSA Region VII



A retired colonel with the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department is now a law enforcement liaison. Dennis Shreve develops and promotes highway safety programs in with state, county and local law enforcement agencies in the four-state region served by NHTSA Region VII.

Since beginning with NHTSA in February 2001, he has made many visits to Iowa. Shreve has attended several planning meetings for Iowa's corridor enforcement projects and Governors Highway Traffic Safety Conferences in 2001 and 2002.

Shreve served as deputy chief at KCPD and headed many of the divisions there including administration, investigations, professional standards, patrol, narcotics and vice, personnel, organized crime unit and personnel.

Shreve holds a BA in criminal justice and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

## DataMaster Installation Progresses

Installation of DataMasters, Iowa's new evidential breath testers, is progressing in an orderly fashion according to Bob Monserrate, DCI Lab.

As of early April, 90 units were installed with an additional 36 units to be installed by the end of July. Monserrate said that will place at least one Data-Master in every county. He said an additional 70 machines are on order and those will be scheduled for installation upon receipt.

The DataMasters are capable of saving considerable amounts of data relating to each test, including age, sex, date and time of test. That provides a lot of good information for analysts but because of the wealth of information, defense attorneys are demanding all of the information within the units. Monserrate said, "They want every test taken from a particular unit, not just the test of their client. We get so many inquiries it consumes a great deal of time." Monserrate said that he receives up to six subpoenas daily. "Most fall through but you just don't know how it will work out," he added.

Monserrate anticipates the Intoxilyzer 4011A program, in service since 1976, to be concluded by December, 2002.

## Life Toll

(lives saved by the belt  
since July, 1986)

YTD 2002      80  
Grand Total 4,770



## Commissioner's Special Award for Traffic Safety



David Dudley, Kim Snook, Dr. Charles Cychosz, Mary McBride and Jerry Stanton.

David Dudley, ILEA, Johnston, is well known among officers throughout Iowa. He works with alcohol issues such as SFST and DRE support. The importance of the SFST program cannot be underestimated for without that basic fundamental standard, basic credibility is reduced. His behind the scenes work has bolstered significantly the success of convicting impaired motorists.

Kim Snook and David Stutz, Iowa DOT, developed "Heads UP," a video about the graduated driver licensing program. It was done on a tight budget with volunteers. The goal is to save lives, reduce injuries and help young people drive better.

Dr. Charles Cychosz, Ames PD, until early this year was the manager of Crime Prevention Research and Training at Iowa State University's Department of Public Safety. While there he helped tackle misbehavior at VEISHEA by developing a peer security and party response team model. That has seriously reduced the amount of alcohol-related problems. He worked hard to increase the seat belt use among ISU employees, developed a child passenger safety program for international students, and was project director at the Get A Grip youth leadership and traffic safety program. In 11 years Get A Grip reached more than 1,500 high school students from 203 Iowa communities. Cychosz led the Iowa charge for the Iowa Social Norms Project, a multi-campus initiative involving alcohol-related social marketing and alcohol enforcement.

Mary McBride is a Des Moines resident who is concerned about traffic safety and is well known by DMPD's traffic unit. She conducted studies to determine speed problems on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and at one point purchased her own radar gun. She monitored activity and reported it to the traffic unit. Seeing the need for additional assistance to the overworked unit, Ms. McBride presented the city with a check to purchase a speed survey trailer in December, 2000. Thirteen months later she directly purchased another speed trailer which she gave to the city.

Jerry Stanton, Ignition Interlock Systems of Iowa, Inc., Grimes, with his late partner, Bob Kromminga, brought the first ignition interlock device to Iowa in 1988. He has worked consistently since then with legislators and the public to develop technology to keep impaired drivers off of Iowa's roadways. He is a true friend of traffic safety.



Carson Whitlow, GTSB, presents the plaque to David Stutz, IDOT.



Sgt. Mark Nagel, Officer Randy DePhillips, Chief Mark Bowersox, Officer Loretta Adams, Officer David Droll, Chief Roderic Russell, Officer Jared Kirby and Capt. Tom Erceg.

Sgt. Mark Nagel, Urbandale PD, is a 27-year veteran and is a strong traffic safety and injury prevention advocate. He is a child passenger safety technician trainer and a member of the Des Moines SAFE Kids Coalition. He has worked with Safety Town, bike helmet projects and pedestrian safety.

Officer Randy DePhillips, West Des Moines PD, is a certified child passenger safety technician and over the past three years worked with US Cellular to establish Iowa's first fit station. DePhillips did a lot of the legwork such as delivering promotional & educational materials to day care centers, hospitals, clinics and retailers. He has personally checked more than 1,000 seats.

Chief Mark Bowersox, Polk City PD, is a co-founder of the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force, a group that began in 1998 with a four-month seat belt enforcement campaign. The group is still around coordinating enforcement activities and is bigger than ever. He's helped arrange saturation patrols and checkpoints. He and three of his five officers are certified child passenger safety technicians who are active in that arena as well.

Officer Loretta Adams, Cedar Rapids PD, is the ASAP officer for a very busy platoon that works 7 a.m. until 7 a.m. In addition she is a DRE and a Commercial Vehicle Inspector. This three and-a-half-year veteran of the Uniform Division is a self-starter willing to work with other agencies in arresting impaired drivers.

Officer David Droll, Iowa City PD, is a traffic officer. He believes in multi-disciplinary activities. Officer Droll has organized & promoted speed and seat belt enforcement projects among several agencies including corridor events. He works with the city traffic engineer and responds for directed patrols in a coopera-

tive mode.

Chief Roderic Russell, Donnellson PD, is a small town chief at the intersection of US 218 and Iowa 2. Chief Russell has worked in pedestrian safety as a result of heavy truck and farm tractor traffic, with the Iowa DOT to control passing within the city limits and to eliminate blind spots at dangerous intersections, with teens to reduce impaired driving, and as a one-man multi-disciplinary advocate.

Officer Jared Kirby, Centerville PD, is aggressive toward impaired driving. He has been an officer for a mere 3 years but is an instructor of standardized field sobriety testing who is happy to train his fellow officers. Jared is considered a leader and a professional. He is also a certified child passenger safety technician and has worked at several fit stations.

Captain Tom Erceg, Cedar Rapids PD, is a 31-year veteran and has been a strong traffic safety advocate. He has supported such innovative programs as commercial vehicle enforcement and drug recognition as well as traditional projects including seat belt and alcohol enforcement.

## Commissioner's Special Award for Traffic Safety

Cynthia Haskin, Allen Memorial Hospital, Waterloo, and Deb Chudzinski, Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo, worked with Arrive Alive and SAFE Kids in Black Hawk County. Their activities included child safety seats and bicycle helmets.

Sharon Cashman, Waverly Municipal Hospital, Waverly, chaired the "Head Over Wheels" committee to provide helmets for bicyclists.

Lori Becker, State Farm Insurance Companies, Des Moines, is a leader in the Greater Des Moines SAFE Kids Coalition. She worked tirelessly in the child passenger safety seat arena.



Cynthia Haskin, Sharon Cashman, Lori Becker, Deb Chudzinski.



Two theater executives could not attend the awards luncheon and were presented awards later. Terry Dotson, Fridley Theaters, Inc., Des Moines and James Emerson, Central States Theatre Corporation, Des Moines, were the recipients. On three occasions over the past two years, this pair, independent of one another, arranged to show GTSB traffic safety announcements prior to featured movies at more than 100 locations. These were TV spots converted to film for theater use. The spots ran for several weeks, reaching well over one million moviegoers.

Trooper Richard Pierce, Post 10, wrote thousands of traffic contacts in Northeast Iowa. In addition he is strong on OWI & narcotics arrests, bar checks along with commercial vehicle violations.

In 2001, Trooper Robert Battles, Post 1, issued more than 2,100 traffic citations, including 900 seat belt citations and 132 suspended or revoked drivers.

Trooper Marc Griggs, Post 1 specializes in impaired driving. He is a drug recognition expert who evaluated 31 persons and arrested 108 drivers for OWI.

Trooper Ryan Moore, Post 8, is responsible for nearly 1,400 contacts last year, including 79 OWI arrests and 70 narcotics arrests along with hundreds of seat belt contacts.

Trooper Dave Driesen Post 6, is a drug recognition expert. In 2001 he arrested 48 impaired drivers and filed 64 open container and 34 other alcohol charges. He also made 57 narcotics arrests.



Troopers Richard Pierce, Robert Battles, Marc Griggs, Ryan Moore and David Driesen.



## "Safety in Motion" Unit Unveiled at GTSB Conference

Linn County officials have unveiled a 40-foot long mobile safety unit in Cedar Rapids. The Healthy Linn Care Network and Make It Safe Coalition, with leadership from the Cedar Rapids Fire Department, acquired the trailer unit through grants provided by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the GTSB.



"Displays depicting bicycle safety, proper child safety seat use, household hazardous waste disposal, fire prevention, agricultural safety and weather safety are just a few topics on display," said Administrative District Chief Brad Brenneman. The safety unit will accommodate up to 14 educational displays that can be interchanged to meet the needs of various audiences.

Liz Christiansen, Division Administrator of the DNR said, "The Safety In Motion unit will make appearances at county fairs, safety events, and community festivals to reach thousands of Eastern Iowa residents."

Eastern Iowa communities will be able to utilize the safety unit for their special events annually from April -October.

The "Safety in Motion" mobile safety unit was introduced during the GTSB's Governor's Highway Traffic Safety Conference held in late March in Cedar Rapids.



Pam Funke, Cedar Rapids Fire Department, with J. Michael Laski, Director, GTSB, and Romell Cooks, Regional Administrator, NHTSA.

## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT IN IOWA

*by Mark J. Campbell, Editor*

Do you or your department have interesting or unusual anecdotes to share? We're looking for stories that exemplify the value of traffic enforcement. A ticket that saved a life. A stop that resulted in a felony arrest. Unusual anecdote. A high BAC.

As GTSB's area administrator in Eastern Iowa, I hear reports of:

A truck that crossed a Mississippi River bridge at 100 mph,

A stop sign runner who suggested to the officer that the sign should say, "Stop required,"

A vehicle transport semi with one lone mini-van on top, loaded with marijuana,

The officer who told the violator, "I stopped you for running a red light." The violator said, "No it wasn't red, it was orange, a mixture of yellow and red."

Grundy County Sheriff Rick Penning relates this story:

Chief Deputy Wolthoff was called to a possible intoxicated driver in the ditch. The driver tested low on alcohol but was wanted in another county on warrants. The driver had more than \$3,000 cash, but no drugs were found.

We'd like to hear your stories but may not be able to publish all of the items we receive. Send them to:

[gtsbinfo@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:gtsbinfo@dps.state.ia.us)

A simple one percent change in Iowa seat belt use represents 20,000 drivers.

Robert Thompson,

## Seat Belt Awards

### Jennie Edmundson Hospital: 90%



Employees of Jennie Edmundson Hospital, Council Bluffs, were awarded the GTSB/NHTSA 90 percent Safety Belt Honor Roll plaque. Pictured in the back row: are Kathy Mashanic, Gwen Mortensen, Sharon Manz, Deb Barrier, Connie Guilliams, Lauri Crist, Jeanine Mimick, Randy Kernes and John Meyers. In the front row are Linda Lewis, Denny Becker, GTSB; Sandy Westphal, Debbie Wright, Todd Crouse, Rita Pierson, Wayne Reynolds.

### City of Villisca: 85%



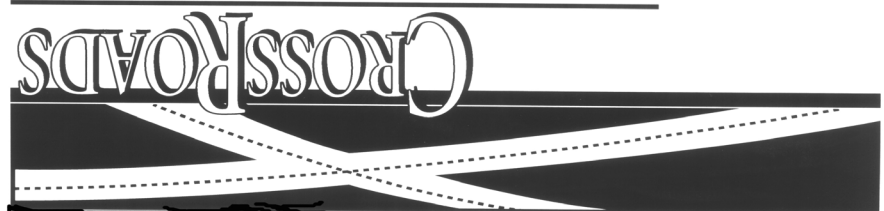
The Eaton Corporation, Shennandoah, was awarded the GTSB/NHTSA 85 percent Safety Belt Honor Roll plaque. Pictured are Lu Simpson, GTSB occupant protection coordinator, John Travis, Randy Schultz, Nola Bond and Alex Valentine. Charlie Black, Iowa Illinois Safety Council, also presented its IISC Belt America Award.

### Iowa Safety Belt Honor Roll Program

The GTSB/NHTSA Safety Belt Honor Roll program encourages seat belt use and rewards groups and communities achieving 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 or 100 percent use rates. Contact the GTSB for more information: 515/281-3907



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